

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

storing at least one of an image data or image information products in a database;
providing a search engine for searching the stored image data products;

5 if a desired image data or image information product of a requestor exists in the
database, automatically generating a data product based on the desired image
data product and a predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor;

10 if a desired image data or image information product of a requestor does not exist
in the database, automatically analyzing the desired image data or image
information product and developing an image data or image information
product based on the analysis and a predefined attributes of the image
specified by a requestor;

automatically sending the generated or developed image data or image
information product to the requestor; and

15 automatically billing the requestor based on the generated or developed image
data or image information product.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein generating the image data or image information
product includes:

20 instructing one or more of a plurality of remote sensing data sources to generate
one or more images based on the desired image data or image information
product and the predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor;

receiving the generated one or more images at a data management facility; and
generating the desired image data or image information product based on an
imaging algorithm associated with the desired image data or image
25 information product and stored in an algorithm database.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein developing the image data or image information
product includes:

30 instructing one or more of the plurality of remote sensing data sources to generate
one or more images based on the analysis and the predefined attributes of the
image specified by a requestor;

receiving the generated one or more images at a data management facility;
generating at least one of an imaging or information extraction algorithm based on
the analysis; and

generating the desired image data or image information product based on the generated imaging algorithm and the received one or more images.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

5 when an algorithm is used to generate an image data or image information product, automatically reimbursing an owner of the algorithm that was used based on a reimbursement contract.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein sending includes at least one of electronically sending the image data or image information product to the requestor over a network, printing a hard copy and transporting the hard copy to the requestor, and storing on a portable
10 memory device and transporting the portable memory device to the requestor.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of remote sensing data sources includes one or more of a LandSat5 system, a LandSat7 system, a MODIS system, aircraft system, ground based system, or a SPOT system.

7. A system comprising:

15 means for storing image data or image information products in a database;
means for providing a search engine for searching the stored image data or image information products;
means for automatically generating a image data or image information product based on the desired image data or image information product and a
20 predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor, if a desired image data or image information product of a requestor exists in the database;
means for automatically analyzing the desired image data or image information product and developing an image data or image information product based on the analysis and a predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor,
25 if a desired image data or image information product of a requestor does not exist in the database;
means for sending the generated or developed image data or image information product to the requestor; and
means for automatically billing the requestor based on the generated or developed
30 image data or image information product.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the means for generating the image data or image information product includes:

means for instructing one or more of a plurality of remote sensing data sources to generate one or more images based on the desired image data or image information product and the predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor;

5 means for receiving the generated one or more images at a data management facility; and

means for generating the desired image data or image information product based on an imaging algorithm associated with the desired image data or image information product and stored in an algorithm database.

10 9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the means for developing the image data or image information product includes:

means for instructing one or more of the plurality of remote sensing data sources to generate one or more images based on the analysis and the predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor;

15 means for receiving the generated one or more images at a data management facility;

means for generating at least one of an imaging or information extraction algorithm based on the analysis; and

20 means for generating the desired image data or image information product based on the generated imaging or information extracting algorithm and the received one or more images.

10. The system of Claim 9, further comprising:

means for reimbursing an owner of the algorithm that was used based on a reimbursement contract.

25 11. The system of Claim 7, wherein the means for sending performs at least one of electronically sending the image data or image information product to the requestor over a network automatically, printing a hard copy and transporting the hard copy to the requestor, and automatically storing on a portable memory device and transporting the portable memory device to the requestor.

30 12. The system of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of remote sensing data sources includes one or more of a LandSat5 system, a LandSat7 system, a MODIS system, aircraft system, ground based system, or a SPOT system.

13. A system comprising:

a first database for storing at least one of an image data or image information products;

a second database for storing at least one of an image data or image information product algorithms; and

a processor coupled to the first and second databases and a network, the processor being configured to generate a graphical user interface,

wherein the graphical user interface includes:

a first component for allowing a requestor to search at least one of the stored image data or image information products or algorithms;

a second component for selecting at least one of the stored image data or image information products or algorithms;

a third component for selecting a predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor;

the processor including:

a fourth component for generating an image data or image information product based on the selected image data or image information product and the selected geographic location;

a fifth component for receiving a request for an image data or image information product, if a desired image data or image information product can not be found in the first database;

a sixth component for sending the generated image data or image information product to the requestor; and

a seventh component for billing the requestor based on the generated image data product.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the fourth component includes:

an eighth component for instructing one or more of a plurality of remote sensing data sources to generate one or more images based on the selected image data or image information product and the selected geographic location;

a ninth component for receiving the generated one or more images; and

a tenth component for generating the desired image data or image information product based on at least one of an imaging or information extraction algorithm associated with the selected image data or image information product and stored in the second database.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the processor further includes:

an eleventh component for reimbursing an owner of the algorithm that was used to generate the selected image data or image information product based on a reimbursement contract.

5 16. The system of Claim 13, wherein the sixth component performs at least one of electronically sending the image data or image information product to the requestor over the network, printing a hard copy, and storing on a portable memory device.

17. The system of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of remote sensing data sources includes one or more of a LandSat5 system, a LandSat7 system, a MODIS system, aircraft
10 system, ground based system, or a SPOT system.

18. A system comprising:

a delivery unit;

a network;

a data management facility including:

15 a first database for storing image data or image information products;

a second database for storing image data or image information product algorithms; and

a processor coupled to the first and second databases and the network, the processor being configured to generate a graphical user interface,

20 wherein the graphical user interface includes:

a first component for allowing a requestor to search at least one of the stored image data or image information products or algorithms;

25 a second component for selecting at least one of the stored image data or image information products or algorithms;

a third component for selecting a predefined attributes of the image specified by a requestor;

the processor including:

30 a fourth component for generating an image data or image information product based on the selected image data or image information product and the selected geographic location;

a fifth component for receiving a request for an image data or image information product, if a desired image data or image information product can not be found in the first database;
a sixth component for sending the generated image data or image information product to the requestor; and
a seventh component for billing the requestor based on the generated image data or image information product.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the fourth component includes:

an eighth component for instructing one or more of a plurality of remote sensing data sources to generate one or more images based on the selected image data or image information product and the selected geographic location;
a ninth component for receiving the generated one or more images; and
a tenth component for generating the desired image data or image information product based on at least one of an imaging or information extraction algorithm associated with the selected image data or image information product and stored in the second database.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the processor further includes:

an eleventh component for reimbursing an owner of the algorithm that was used to generate the selected image data or image information product based on a reimbursement contract.

21. The system of Claim 18, wherein the sixth component performs at least one of electronically sending the image data or image information product to the requestor over the network, printing a hard copy, and storing on a portable memory device.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein the sixth component further performs sending a request to the delivery unit to transport the hard copy or portable memory device to the requestor.

23. The system of Claim 18, wherein the plurality of remote sensing data sources includes one or more of a LandSat5 system, a LandSat7 system, a MODIS system, aircraft system, ground based system, or a SPOT system.

24. A method comprising:

storing image data or image information products in a database;

providing a search engine for searching the stored image data or image information products;

receiving payment information from a requestor;

5 if a desired image data or image information product of a requestor exists in the database, automatically generating an image data or image information product based on the desired image data or image information product and a predefined attributes of the image specified by the requestor;

10 if a desired image data or image information product of a requestor does not exist in the database, automatically analyzing the desired image data or image information product and developing an image data or image information product based on the analysis and a predefined attributes of the image specified by the requestor;

automatically sending the generated or developed image data or image information product to the requestor; and

15 automatically billing the requestor based on the generated or developed image data or image information product and the received payment information.

